

# December 2007 Winterport Recreation Department Report

November 17<sup>th</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup>

## Board News -

The Recreation Board held our December meeting on 12/20. At this meeting we reviewed the Rec Coordinator report, discussed getting the ice rink flooded for the winter, discussed the coaches clinic that was held for the PreK/K and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade basketball coaches, and reviewed the planning for the Youth XC Ski program that is being developed. Our January meeting is scheduled for 1/16/2008.

## Sponsored Programs -

- Youth Basketball Youth basketball continues to run at all ages and divisions. All T-Shirts have been ordered and handed out. Revenue was just short of budgeted amounts and expenses are predicted to be within budgeted amounts.
- Youth Cheering The youth cheering program is up and running. Numbers are high and the program continues to be a success.

## Recreation Coordinator's Report -

The basketball teams have had three games up to this point into the month of December. I have been getting word from our coaches that there are a couple of rules that have been an issue within the league. Most of this is coming from the 5th/6th grade girls, but also from the other groups also. I have addressed these issues with the other towns Rec directors that are within our league. We plan on having another league meeting the 1st week of January. My plan is to ask all coaches to attend this meeting for we will be going over the rules at this time. I am finding that the rec director of Carmel and myself are doing most of corresponding with little or no word from the other towns. This is an issue with me and I will be talking to the other towns rec directors stressing to them the importance of responding to our emails.

Our younger groups, the Pre Kindergarten through 2nd grade, have great numbers this year again. I met with the coaches of these kids and we had a little training in what these kids need to learn between this age and the next level of 3rd/4th grade. It was very apparent that all present are on the same page in what is needed for these kids. T-shirts have been ordered for the entire programs participants and most have been received and handed out. I am a little disappointed with the supplier of our shirts this time. But they have come through so many times in the past that I will overlook the minor issue this season.

My plan is to try and get the league to go with pendants for our 3rd-6th grade teams. Last year they went with t-shirts and as we have already given out shirts to the players, I felt a pendant would be a better idea. Trophies will be ordered for the younger groups of Pre Kindergarten to 2nd grade.

Final thoughts that I have on Basketball and the volunteers we have within our town... I have a bad feeling with our girls basketball program. At present we have two 3rd grade girls playing basketball and only one second grade girl playing this year. There are 7 third grade and 5 second grade girls in our cheerleading program. This will be an issue next year and we will have a hard time fielding a team in this age bracket (3rd/4th grade girls) within our league. I feel it is great that we have cheerleading for I am sure there are girls within this program that would not be playing basketball if there was not a cheerleading program. 3rd and 4th grade girls are to young and immature to be playing at the 5th and 6th grade level, so we will have to think about alternative ideas for this age group. Maybe all my worry is for not. We shall see when the time comes, but we do need to discuss this issue before the season starts next year.

I have talked and worked with all our volunteers many times over the course of the season and I have nothing but good thoughts on all. Our coaches, referees, and score keepers have shown nothing but care and dedication to our youth. This town is blessed with hard working volunteers that find time to put into our town's youth; some an hour or two a week... others many hours a week. All these good people do their best at what we ask them to do and our kids have the benefit of their care.

I have just recently started getting into the mode of thinking how I will be going about our sledding party this winter. I have already talked with our town's boy scout leaders and they are on board. The big push will be to start thinking on getting the ice rink in working order. I have decided that we will need to have much more hot chocolate and hot dogs for this event than we did last year. A rough estimate of 85 people last year went through the food and drink we had fairly quickly. I am sure we will have more people showing up this year easily breaking the 100 mark. I will be talking to

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both the middle school and high school student councils seeing in how best to advertise this event at both schools. One idea I have had is to maybe get live music and dancing around a bonfire. More to come on this fun event. Last thing I would like to mention is how happy I am that Heather Roberts and Frank Brilliant's daughter is doing great after a scary time having to go through surgery. My thoughts are with them and hope to see their daughter back on the basketball court soon.

Recreation Coordinator - Dave Lester

## **Upcoming Events -**

In the next couple of months the Recreation Board will be running and concluding the youth basketball season, working with the Town to prepare the ice rink for another winter of skating, planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sledding and Skating Party at the Park, and closing in on finalizing our formal policies and procedures document. Our January meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1/16 at 6:00pm in the Victoria Grant Civic Center.